data compressing means for compressing the attribution record groups in a unit of each of the attribution record groups; and

file forming means for combining each of the attribution record groups, which are compressed by the data compressing means, and for forming a data base file,

wherein the data compressing means compresses a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, with a first compression method, and compresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record, with a second compression method,

the first compression method compresses the attribution record group so that the attribution record group after being compressed can be decompressed faster than that compressed by using the second compression method, and

the second compression method compresses the attribution record group so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method.

3. (Amended) A database managing apparatus comprising:

attribution record group forming means for classifying data, which is requested to be stored into a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions;

data compressing means for compressing each of the attribution record groups into blocks of data;

file forming means for combining each of the attribution record groups, which are compressed by the data compressing means, and for forming a data base file;

data decompressing means for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, when a search request for searching the database file is received; and

searching means for searching for a target record containing a search key in the particular attribution record group,

wherein the data decompressing means further decompresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record group, when the searching means finds the target record.

7. (Amended) A database managing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the data compressing means compresses each of the other attribution record groups into blocks of data.

13. (Amended) A database record retrieving apparatus for retrieving a target record to be searched from a database file, which is made up of plural attribution record groups each of which is compressed in a unit of each of the attribution record groups, the database record retrieving apparatus comprising:

data decompressing means for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, when a search request for searching the database file is received; and

searching means for searching for a target record containing a search key in the particular attribution record group,

wherein the data decompressing means further decompresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record group, when the searching means finds the target record.

16. (Amended) A database record retrieving apparatus for retrieving a target record to be searched from a database file, which is made up of plural attribution record groups wherein only

the other attribution record groups, which are different from a particular attribution record group to be searched, the database record retrieving apparatus comprising:

data decompressing means for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, when a search request for searching the database file is received; and

searching means for searching for a target record containing a search key in the particular attribution record group,

wherein the data decompressing means further decompresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record group, when the searching means finds the target record.

18. (Amended) A database record retrieving apparatus according to claim 16, wherein:

the database file is made up so that each of the plural attribution record groups is compressed in a unit of each of the attribution record groups,

the data decompressing means reads out only the particular attribution record group from the database file, and decompresses only the particular attribution record group; and

the data decompressing means further decompresses the other attribution record groups, when the searching means finds the target record.

19. (Amended) A method of managing database comprising:

an attribution record group forming step for classifying data, which is requested to be stored in a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions;

a data compressing step for compressing the attribution record groups in a unit of each of the attribution record groups; and

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a file forming step for combining each of the attribution record groups, which is compressed by the data compressing step, and for forming a data base file,

wherein the data compressing step compresses a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, with a first compression method, and compresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record, with a second compression method,

the first compression method compresses the attribution record group so that the attribution record group after being compressed can be decompressed faster than that compressed by using the second compression method, and

the second compression method compresses the attribution record group so that a compression rate is higher than that of the first compression method.

21. (Amended) A database management method comprising:

an attribution record group forming step for classifying data, which is requested to be stored in a database, according to attributions defined in the database, and for making plural attribution record groups corresponding to each of the attributions;

a data compressing step for compressing the attribution record groups into blocks of data;

a file forming step for combining each of the attribution record groups, which is compressed by the data compressing step and for forming a data base file;

a data decompressing step for decompressing a particular attribution record group, which is to be searched, when a search request for searching the database file is received; and

a searching step for searching for a target record containing a search key in the particular attribution record group,

wherein the data decompressing step further decompresses the other attribution record groups, which are different from the particular attribution record group, when the searching step finds the target record.

25. (Amended) A method of managing database according to claim 24, wherein the data compressing step compresses the other attribution record groups into blocks of data.

36. (Amended) A method of retrieving database record according to claim 34, wherein:

the database file is made up so that each of the plural attribution record groups is compressed into blocks of data,

the data decompressing step reads out only the particular attribution record group from the database file, and decompresses only the particular attribution record group; and

the data decompressing step further decompresses the other attribution record groups, when the searching step finds the target record.

Please add claims as follows:

37. (New) The database managing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the data decompressing means decompress an attribution group including a target record to be retrieved as the particular attribution group when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record from the database file is received.

38. (New) The data base managing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the data compressing means further comprises a specific record string, which appears in the attribution

record groups frequently compared to the other record string, for reducing a size of the

attribution record groups.

39. (New) The method of managing database according to claim 21, further comprising a

data decompressing step for decompressing a particular attribution group, which includes a

target record to be retrieved, when a retrieve request for retrieving the target record from the

database file is received.

40. (New) The method of managing database according to claim 21, wherein the data

compressing step further comprises reducing a size of the attribution record groups through a

specific record string, which appears in the attribution record groups frequently compared to the

other record string.